

From: Michael Wharton
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 9:10pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom this may concern,

It is a serious concern of mine when it becomes apparent that the government, in its ever-vigilant quest to abrogate individual rights, targets the good for being the good. Whatever the flaws in Microsoft's Windows operating system, it has given me the tools to enrich my life beyond what I could have conceived without it. I have seen it demonstrated time and time again as being the superior product on the market, superior in terms of user-friendliness and ease of adaptability.

I shall like to say that I utterly resent the idea that I am being characterized as some kind of victim, in the sense of being exploited by Microsoft. I refuse to accept that you are speaking for me. I am the public that you are portraying as helpless. I am the consumer that you portray as not sufficiently intelligent enough to decide how to spend the money I have earned. I do not believe it is the government's place to tell me on what products to spend my money. That is exactly what the government is doing in its persecution of Microsoft.

For the sake of honesty, please do not continue your disingenuous rant that by assaulting Microsoft you are protecting me, the consumer. You are not. This whole thing started because some of Microsoft's weaker competitors saw that they could not match Microsoft's quality and decided they could only flourish if Microsoft was put under the gun. The Antitrust Division has filled that request remarkably. As a matter of principle I do not believe that failed business ventures such as the above mentioned competitors should determine the rules by which markets are run.

I hold that the idea of a successful business being a threat in any context to me personally or to the marketplace in general is a ludicrous assertion that could only come from some dusty Marx-infected professor or intellectual. It is a matter of historical fact that when a government intervenes in the economy, the eventual downfall of that economy is the result. In no state, past or present, can there be seen an exception to this. When that intervention takes the shape of an axe poised to cut down the ultra-successful, I ask you, what could possibly be the desired result?

There is a disturbing trend in this country, one that's been present for most of the last century. That trend is the abrogation of property rights. The products and services produced by Microsoft are their property. They have the right to make and distribute it as they see fit. In no proper sense of the concept 'property' is there an iota of justification for the government to be interfering here; in a wider context, that goes for every area of economic endeavor.

Please stop your persecution of Microsoft. It is a totally unjustified and unjustifiable act of treason against the founding principles of this great nation.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Wharton